

J.C. Watts, Jr.  
Chairman  
4th District, Oklahoma

*House Meets at 9:00 a.m. for Morning Hour and  
10:00 a.m. for Legislative Business*

*Anticipated Floor Action:*

**H.J. Res. 65—Commending Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge**

**H.R. 1663—National Medal of Honor Memorial Act**

**H.Res. 322—Sense of Congress in Sympathy for the Victims of Hurricane  
Floyd**

**S. 559—Designating the J.J. Pickle Federal Building**

**H.R. 764—Child Abuse Prevention Act**

**H.R. 2606—FY 2000 Foreign Operations Appropriations (Conference Report)**



## **Bills Considered Under Suspension of the Rules**

**Floor Situation:** The House will consider the following four bills under suspension of the rules as its first order of business today. Each is debatable for 40 minutes, may not be amended, and requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

**H.J. Res. 65—Commending Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge** honors World War II veterans who fought in the German Ardennes offensive known as the Battle of the Bulge. The resolution authorizes the president to issue a proclamation calling upon Americans to honor the Battle of the Bulge veterans with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities. In addition, the resolution directs the president to reaffirm the friendship bonds between the U.S. and Belgium and Luxembourg. The bill was introduced by Messrs. Smith (NJ), Stump, and Evans and was reported by the Veterans' Affairs Committee by voice vote on September 22, 1999.

**H.R. 1663—National Medal of Honor Memorial Act** recognizes the following as National Medal of Honor Sites: (1) the memorial under construction at the Riverside National Cemetery in Riverside, California; (2) the memorial at the White River State Park in Indianapolis, Indiana; and (3) the Congressional Medal of Honor Museum at Patriot's Point in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, currently situated on the *U.S.S. Yorktown*. The bill stipulates that it does not require or permit the expenditure of federal funds for

any purpose related to these sites. CBO estimates that the bill will have no impact on the federal budget. The bill was introduced by Mr. Calvert *et al.* and was reported by the Veterans' Affairs Committee by voice vote on September 22, 1999.

**H.Res. 322—Sense of Congress in Sympathy for the Victims of Hurricane Floyd** expresses Congress's sympathy for those who were affected by Hurricane Floyd, which struck numerous communities along the eastern seaboard between September 14-17, 1999. The hurricane was responsible for killing 70 people, most of whom were victims of severe flooding. The flooding contaminated water supplies in numerous communities and waterlogged and destroyed thousands of homes. The storm's fury also obliterated swaths of farmland and killed livestock; its total cost, not yet calculated, is expected to surpass \$6 billion.

**S. 559** designates the federal building located at 300 East 8<sup>th</sup> Street in Austin, Texas, as the J.J. "Jake" Pickle Federal Building. Mr. Pickle served his constituents for 30 years in the House of Representatives. He was born and raised in Texas and served in the United States Navy during World War II. He was elected to an open seat in Congress in 1963 and continued his service for 15 terms. Congressman Pickle was a leader in the fight for civil rights issues and equal opportunity for women and minorities. During his tenure, he became chairman of both the Ways & Means Oversight and Social Security Subcommittees. The Senate passed the bill by unanimous consent on June 16, 1999; the House passed an identical measure by voice vote (H.R. 118) on May 4.

**Additional Information:** See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVIII, #28, October 1, 1999.



## **H.R. 764—Child Abuse Prevention Act**

**Floor Situation:** The House will consider H.R. 764 after it completes consideration of S. 559. Yesterday, the Rules Committee granted an open rule that provides one hour of general debate, equally divided between the chairman and ranking member of the Judiciary Committee. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill as well as House rules prohibiting appropriations in a legislative measure. In addition, the rule accords priority in recognition to members who have their amendments pre-printed in the *Congressional Record*. The chairman of the Committee of the Whole may postpone votes and reduce the voting time on a postponed vote to five minutes, so long as it follows a regular 15-minute vote. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

**Summary:** H.R. 764 amends the 1968 Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act to (1) assist states in improving access by child protective workers and child welfare workers to criminal conviction information and court-issued protection orders based on claims of child or domestic abuse; (2) add as a new permissible state use for federal grants "to enforce child-abuse and neglect laws and programs designed to prevent child abuse and neglect"; and (3) double the amount of federal funds earmarked for child abuse and domestic assistance programs from \$10 million to \$20 million. The measure was introduced by Ms. Pryce *et al.* and was reported by the Judiciary Committee by voice vote on September 28, 1999.

**Views:** The Republican leadership supports passage of the bill. An official Clinton Administration view was unavailable at press time.

**Amendments:** At press time, the *Legislative Digest* was aware of the following amendment to H.R. 764:

**Mrs. Jackson-Lee** may offer an amendment; however, details were unavailable at press time. *Staff Contact: Ayanna Hawkins, x5-3816*

**Additional Information:** See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVIII, #28, October 1, 1999.



## **H.R. 2606—FY 2000 Foreign Operations Appropriations (Conference Report)**

**Floor Situation:** The House may consider the conference report to H.R. 2606 sometime today. Conference reports are privileged and may be considered anytime three days after they are filed; they are debatable for one hour and may not be amended. On Tuesday, September 28, the Rules Committee granted a rule waiving all points of order against the conference report and its consideration.

**Summary:** The conference report to H.R. 2606 appropriates \$12.7 billion in discretionary budget authority in FY 2000 for foreign assistance and export-financing programs. This amount is \$69.2 million more than the House-passed bill and \$20.6 billion less than last year (although the FY 1999 amount included \$2.1 billion in emergency spending and \$17.9 billion for the International Monetary Fund). Of the total amount appropriated, the measure provides \$599 million for export assistance, \$7.5 billion for bilateral economic assistance, \$3.5 billion for military assistance, and \$1.1 billion for multilateral economic assistance.

Major funding initiatives in the conference report include:

- \* \$2.7 billion for the Agency for International Development (AID), \$48.6 million more than the House-passed bill;
- \* \$3.4 billion for foreign military financing (\$50 million less than the House-passed bill);
- \* \$78 million for voluntary peacekeeping operations (\$1.5 million more than the House-passed bill);
- \* \$535 million for Eastern Europe and the Baltic States, including \$150 million for Kosovo (\$142 million more than the House-passed bill);
- \* \$735 million for the former states of the Soviet Union (\$10 million more than the House-passed bill);
- \* \$715 million (\$30 million more than the House-passed bill) for child survival and disease elimination activities;
- \* \$19.6 million for the International Fund for Ireland, equal to the House-passed bill;

- \* \$285 million (equal to the House-passed bill) for International Narcotics Control;
- \* \$181.6 million (\$30,000 less than the House-passed bill) for nonproliferation, anti-terrorism, and demining activities; and
- \* \$235 million (\$5 million less than the House-passed bill) for the Peace Corps.

The conference report also:

- \* recommends no less than \$960 million for economic aid to Israel and no less than \$735 million in aid to Egypt;
- \* withholds 50 percent of assistance provided for the government of Russia unless it ends nuclear and ballistic missile cooperation with Iran;
- \* renews for one-year the partial waiver of section 907 of the Freedom Support Act (*P.L. 102-511*), which bans all U.S. assistance to Azerbaijan;
- \* provides \$35.8 million for the Global Environment Facility (GEF), \$14.2 million less than the House-passed bill;
- \* caps funding for bilateral family planning assistance at \$385 million and releases it on a monthly basis of 8.3 percent a month over twelve months; and
- \* provides \$25 million for U.S. contributions to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), but reduces that amount on a dollar-by-dollar basis for any amounts UNFPA spends on activities in China.

The House passed H.R. 2606 by a vote of 385-35 on August 3, 1999. The Senate approved its version (S. 1234) by a vote of 97-2 on June 30, 1999.

**Additional Information:** See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVIII, #27, Pt. III, September 29, 1999; and #22, July 23, 1999.



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